



Protest Songs, p.7



Youth Musical, p.9

ERHS Students Say ‘ICE Out!’ Local Students Organize, Protest

by Ashlyn Calderon

“Say it loud, say it clear, immigrants are welcome here!”

This was just one of many chants that were passionately shouted out by Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) students on the morning of Friday, February 13, when scores of them walked out of their classrooms and to the front of the school to protest for the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It’s a government organization the students see ripping hundreds of families apart throughout the country. The walkout was organized by a student-led group named Students Against ICE (SAI) in collaboration with the Student Government Association. The walkout was part of a nationwide protest scheduled by an organization named Dare to Struggle.

With the brimming need to protest, two students, Divine Anamara and Axel Ramos Diaz, both juniors and co-leaders of SAI, created a group chat to which they invited other students who also felt outraged by ICE’s actions. They had all seen other high school protests around the county, which inspired them to do the same at Eleanor Roosevelt. Nmesomachi Agoh, another junior and co-leader of SAI, reported



Kasiye Woubeshet, co-leader of Students Against ICE, holds the megaphone at the walkout at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Friday, February 13. Beside her, from left, are co-organizers Anna Dahlen and Violet Ridge.

that in a poll conducted to measure interest in the walkout, 372 students signed their names. “And then me and [Divine] said ‘okay, if we’re really serious about this, then let’s do something,’” said Diaz. “If they’re doing it, why not us?”

As the group grew, they began to organize themselves by selecting leaders and designating roles for members who would participate in the walkout. Eventually, this group would adopt the name Students Against ICE.

During the walkout, Latino music like bachata and reggaeton could be heard from a stereo. The walkout was meant to both highlight the injustice

immigrants endure and celebrate Latino culture, the demographic most affected by ICE’s recent misconduct. There is no doubt in this claim, as a report published by UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs states that “Latinos accounted for nine out of 10 ICE arrests.”

During the protest, students were given the space to share their own or someone else’s experiences with ICE, and many spoke up to condemn ICE for abusing its power, as it has in the cases of René Good and Alex Pretti, two U.S. citizens who were killed by ICE agents, along with the case of Kilmar Abrégo Garcia, of neighboring Beltsville, a documented immigrant with no criminal record, previously taken into custody by ICE due to racial profiling.

Asked why SAI decided to protest, Violet Ridge, a junior at ERHS and a co-leader of SAI said, “Nothing we’re seeing in our world is right. And we aren’t seeing enough people stand up to it ... so you gotta do what you gotta do.” Anamara said, “We can’t let this continue to happen because if we let it go on, then it’s not going to stop.”

What Goes On

Monday, March 2

7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Establishment of Unified Collective Bargaining Protocols, Municipal Building
Wednesday, March 4

7:00 p.m., Council Meet and Greet, La Curva Restaurant, 5810 Greenbelt Road

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

See PGCPs, page 8

Criticism as PGCPs Uses Muslim Holidays as Snow Make-up Days

by Laura Charleston

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPs) will hold classes on March 20, Eid al-Fitr, and May 27, Eid al-Adha, converting the Muslim holidays into instructional make-up days after winter weather closures, citing state requirements to meet mandated requirements for 180 school days and instructional hours.

The decision, discussed at a recent Board of Education meeting, has drawn criticism from Muslim families and community leaders who say the move reverses progress made toward religious inclusion.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting. Families hold a special morning prayer at the mosque in their best attire and spend the day visiting relatives and friends. Celebrations usually last three days.

Eid al-Adha is the Feast of Sacrifice, which follows the completion of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. This day falls on the 10th

day in the final month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

Legal, Operational Constraints

During the PGCPs Board of Education’s Special/Emergency Board meeting held February 4, district leaders described the calendar as a give-and-take.

Andrew Zuckerman, PGCPs chief information and technology officer, told board members that Maryland law requires districts to meet both a 180-day minimum and an hourly instructional requirement.

“We are required to go 180 days and we have to fulfill an hours requirement,” Zuckerman said. “We couldn’t go to school for 179 days and then add hours or minutes to the school day to then get that full day back.”

Thus, Maryland districts cannot extend the school day to compensate for weather-related closures, unlike Virginia and Anne

Black History

Remembering the Greenbelt Fair Housing Struggle During the 1960s

by Erica Johns

Part one of a two-part story. Note: Both Black and white workers built Greenbelt in the 1930s, but only white families were accepted to live in the new town. This article does not discuss all persons, activities and letters related to 1960s Greenbelt fair housing efforts, instead providing a representative sampling. When speaking of that time, this article uses the terms “Negro” or “colored” if a person wrote or was quoted using those words in a contemporaneous source. Sources for this article are available at the end.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Front row from left: Marcie Walder, Marj Donn and Jean Turkiewicz. Back row from left: Judy Walder, Marie Unger, Hopi Auerbach and Rachel Turkiewicz Alexander. Marcie, Marj and Jean helped found Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing in 1963.

Dr. Leo Walder was sure he could find a Greenbelt home for his student before the student’s wedding. However, it proved more difficult than the University of Maryland professor and Greenbelt resident expected. It was 1963 and the student was Black.

Walder, wife Marcie and their children had moved to Greenbelt

in 1962 and quickly settled in, building relationships through their children’s schools, in the Goddard Wives Club and the League of Women Voters, and at Twin Pines Savings and Loan where “everyone had an account.” Friends included Bob and Mary

See FAIR HOUSING, page 10

Council Worksession on Unfunded Capital Projects: ‘Tough Decisions’

by Carol Griffith

The Greenbelt City Council held a February 4 worksession to discuss and seek council prioritization of unfunded capital projects, including funding vehicle replacements for the Police Department, in order to direct staff in preparation for the annual budget process. All councilmembers except Danielle McKinney, who was traveling, attended. The discussion of approximately \$65M in unfunded projects centered on, as Mayor Emmett Jordan said, “making tough decisions.”

To further guide the discus-

sion, Councilmember Kristen Weaver asked about the status of the results of the community survey, which was presented for public input in November at the time of the citywide election. Assistant City Manager Timothy George responded that the data from the surveys was sent to the University of Maryland for analysis and he expected partial results in May and a final analysis in June.

City Manager Josué Salmerón provided a spreadsheet overview

See COUNCIL, page 12



PHOTO BY PETER TEUBEN

Greenbelt Middle School students and historic reenactors recognize Black History Month on Saturday, February 21 at the Community Center. From left are reenactor Theresa Saxton, student essay winners Geo Robles, Nathanbryel Fomo and Lise-Bell Tagne, and reenactors Marquett Milton and Carolivia Herron. See story on page 11.

Thanks for All the News

The Greenbelt News Review is a grateful recipient of a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation, one purpose of which is to allow us to print more pages than ad revenue supports. This week, thanks to that grant we are able to provide our readers with 16 pages of news, events and photos. Our thanks to the Foundation.



The Nighthawks came to roost at the New Deal Café on Thursday night, February 12, entertaining a packed house with the band’s always excellent set of classic blues and blues rock. “I’m Mark Wenner, and after 54 years, I’m still in The Nighthawks,” founder, singer and harmonica player Wenner said while introducing the band. The legendary Nighthawks formed in 1972. From left, guitarist Zachary Sweeney, Wenner, drummer Mark Stutso and bass player Steve Wolf.

Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert

Elvis sings and tells his story like never before in a new cinematic experience from visionary filmmaker Baz Luhrmann. Said critic Adam Graham of the Detroit News, “The film is a work of deep reverence and affection; Luhrmann wants audiences to feel what he feels from Elvis, and it comes bursting through the screen.”

Live Action Oscar Shorts

Butcher’s Stain; A Friend of Dorothy; Jane Austen’s Period Drama; The Singers; and Two People Exchanging Saliva

Documentary Oscar Shorts

All the Empty Rooms; Armed Only with a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud; Children No More: “Were and Are Gone”; The Devil Is Busy; and Perfectly a Strangeness

Animated Oscar Shorts

Papillon (Butterfly); Forevergreen; La jeune fille qui pleurait des perles (The Girl Who Cried Pearls); Retirement Plan; and The Three Sisters

The Great Gatsby

Nick Carraway (Sam Waterston) is a young man from the Midwest living modestly among the decadent mansions of 1920s Long Island. He becomes involved in the life of the mysterious Jay Gatsby (Robert Redford), a rich man who throws the most lavish parties on the island. But behind Gatsby’s outgoing demeanor is a lonely man who wants nothing more than to be with his old love, Daisy (Mia Farrow). She is married to the bullheaded Tom (Bruce Dern), creating a love triangle that will end in tragedy.





Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!
After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9
Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:

FEBRUARY 27th - MARCH 5th

EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2025)
(96 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM (OC), 7:45 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 5:45 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 3:30 PM, 6:00 PM
Tue. 8:00 PM

Live Action Oscar Shorts
(2026) (119 mins)
Some films in this program contain adult language, adult themes and sensual images. Recommended for persons 17 and up.
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 4:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

Documentary Oscar Shorts
(2026) (157 mins)
Some films in this program contain graphic war imagery, adult themes and language. Recommended for persons 17 and up.
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Tue. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sun. 7:15 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

Animated Oscar Shorts
(2026) (83 mins)
Some films in this program include some disturbing and mature content and may not be suitable for very young children.
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Tue. 8:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:15 PM
Sat. 7:45 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 1:15 PM
Wed. 5:30 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

The Great Gatsby
(1974) (138 mins)
Free Cinema Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM



BARC is the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985
Mary Lou Williamson, Editor
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

STAFF
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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Youth Struggle with Mental Health; Online Support Services Surge

by Max Schaeffer

Adolescents across the country have increasingly suffered from anxiety and depression over the last 10 years, and school officials in Prince George’s County noticed the same trend locally.

So, when the county’s public school system needed to support its struggling students, it did what schools and young people across the nation are doing – it turned to an online service.

Funded by the statewide effort to bolster youth mental health, in October 2022, the county partnered with Hazel Health, which specializes in providing online counseling to school-age children.

“I think accessibility is huge,” said Emily Pasco, the school district’s mental health coordinator. “That’s historically been a barrier for mental health services – transportation is an issue.”

Supporters of online mental health services argue that they offer a convenient option in an era when providers are in short supply. According to a 2024 federal study, more than a third of the nation’s residents live in an area where there aren’t enough mental health professionals.

That’s where online services like Hazel come in.

“We are not a silver bullet; we are not going to solve everyone’s problems, but we can be a great gap-fill,” said Andrew Post, Hazel’s president.

Online mental health services surged in popularity during the coronavirus pandemic when most in-person options were shut down, and they have remained popular

in the years since.

With the online medium evolving every day, there is no consensus about it among psychological researchers, but various studies have shown online interventions can do some good.

For example, a 2024 National Institutes of Health study found there were “promising results regarding the effectiveness of online interventions in young people, especially for symptoms of anxiety and depression and for training of social functioning.”

Megan Taylor, an independent licensed clinical psychologist from Northern Virginia with online and in-person therapy experience, said online therapy can sometimes feel safer to patients than seeing a therapist in person.

Yet the online medium makes it easier for unlicensed or unreliable providers to provide services they aren’t qualified to provide, said Taylor, who has extensive experience with youngsters with autism.

“I feel really passionate about the fact that there are many therapists who advertise themselves as being neurodiversity affirming or specializing in autism, but really haven’t had that training,” she said.

Despite such concerns, online therapy is expected to grow as an option for troubled young people nationwide. Zion Market Research projects the global market for online therapy for teens to more than triple from 2023 through 2032.

Public school systems seeking

to expand mental health services for students make up a growing part of that market.

Hazel Health was one of the big winners in the state’s first round of grants from its new youth mental health program, receiving \$2.75 million in Prince George’s County, \$1.5 million in Baltimore City and smaller grants in Charles and St. Mary’s Counties.

Students in Prince George’s County and elsewhere access Hazel’s counselors through video conference, either from school or home. Post said the medium offers limitations as well as benefits for the students who access it.

“We are raising a generation of children who are very comfortable, for better or worse, with technology,” Post said. “This construct of, ‘I’m going to drop you off at this office and I’ll pick you up in an hour,’ is a little jarring, compared to, ‘I’m going to hand you this iPad, and you’re going to see this person and talk to them.’”

Despite being a proponent of telehealth therapy, Post acknowledged for severe cases, in-person treatment always has to be an option for young people.

Prince George’s County – like Miami-Dade County, Fla., where Post taught and served as an administrator – is a majority-minority community where over half of the student population qualifies for free and reduced lunch. This comes with additional mental health challenges for students to navigate.

See HAZEL HEALTH, page 7



Congratulations to the New Deal Café for reaching finalist status in the Best Venue category for The Wammie Awards and to the New Deal Café’s music coordinator, Liz Springer, for her work on behalf of the music programming.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation. The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then optional sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience.Robbins@gmail.com.

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

Volunteer to Drive for GIVES

Want to meet fellow Greenbelters and help them out at the same time? The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) always needs volunteers, especially drivers. Choose when and where you will drive (within the 10-mile limit) and if you are also willing and able to help with carrying groceries or other packages.

To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES (membership is free), have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and pass a background check. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.



"Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches."
– Bahá'u'lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

It's Not Too Late: Change is Possible

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301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Living Generously in a World that Holds Back



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

One Hillside Road

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Lenten Agape Meals At Community Church

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, will be hosting its annual series of Agape Meals on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through Wednesday, April 1. The event is free and open to the public.

Agape meals are a Lenten tradition for the church and named using the Greek word for the unconditional, unearned love that God has for all. Each simple meal of soup, bread and salad is preceded by a short devotional lesson. A free-will offering will be donated to the missions of the church.

The church is located at 1 Hillside Road and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming to all.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd

cathcomgreenbelt.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link: [CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://www.zoom.us/j/98519851985)

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

March 1, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Rising Rhythm

PBUUC Chalice Dancers with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty

In the spirit of our March theme (Help), we'll share a service inspired by our recent PBUUC Art As Worship workshop. Together we'll celebrate the ways in which the arts help us rise prayerfully into self-worth, the beauty and shape of color, and the rhythm of life.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Français, s'il Vous Plaît: At the Youth Center

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the Youth Center every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages and all levels of fluency are welcome.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially string players, French horns, low brass and percussion. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.



Mahjong Group Meets Weekly on Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Mahjong Group meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Senior Game Room in the Community Center. Instructional classes are offered periodically. Check the Winter Recreation Guide for details.

Canasta Group Meets Mondays

The Greenbelt Canasta Group meets on Mondays from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center Senior Game Room. Join in for casual and fun play. People of all levels are welcome to drop in to play. Check the Greenbelt Recreation Activity Guide for more information.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR MARCH 2-6

Monday, March 2 at 7:30pm, **WORK SESSION - ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROTOCOLS**

Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** *On the Agenda: Planning of PSAC's Upcoming Invest in Our Youth Forum and Discussion of Adjunct Youth Summit, Review of Police Department's Submitted Updated General Orders*

Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION** *On the Agenda: PIN and Subgroup updates*

Wednesday, March 4 at 7pm, **COUNCIL MEET AND GREET - (LA CURVA)**

Thursday, March 5 at 7pm, **CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE** *On the Agenda: TBD*

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/calendar.

CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION RESOLUTIONS

Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7pm
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, a municipal corporation, has initiated legislative action to annex three large areas of tax-exempt land, as described below:

- BARC Annexation Area #1 (Resolution # 2125-2026): Consists of approximately 223 acres of tax-exempt land owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the United States Government (Beltsville Agricultural Research Center).
- BARC Annexation Area #2 (Resolution # 2126-2026): Consists of approximately 843 acres of tax-exempt land owned by the United States Government (Beltsville Agricultural Research Center).
- BARC/NASA Annexation Area #3 (Resolution # 2127-2026): Consists of approximately 1,196 acres of tax-exempt land owned by the United States Government (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

The annexation resolutions were initiated by the City Council pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, Local Government Article, § 4-403.

The exact legal descriptions and annexation plans for the above Annexation Areas are available online at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/news, or may be reviewed in person at the City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 200, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, between the hours of 9am and 4pm., Monday through Friday.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed annexations on March 9, 2026, at 7pm, in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing.

Written comments may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in advance to the City Clerk, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk
City of Greenbelt
301-474-8000

CELL COVERAGE TOWN HALL

Tuesday, March 10 from 7-8:30pm
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Let's Talk Cell Phone Coverage in Greenbelt!

Are you experiencing dropped calls, slow data, or poor reception in Greenbelt? Join us for an open community discussion with major cell phone providers and City officials. This town hall will provide residents an opportunity to:

- Share feedback about service challenges
- Learn about infrastructure and coverage efforts
- Ask questions directly to providers

Have your say and help improve cell service in our community. All residents are welcome. If you would like to submit questions beforehand, please send them to galvarez@greenbeltnmd.gov

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

CITY COUNCIL MEET AND GREET

Wednesday, March 4 at 7pm
La Curva, 5810 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD

City residents are invited to connect with their elected officials at an upcoming City Council Meet and Greet at La Curva. The informal gathering offers community members an opportunity to speak one-on-one with Councilmembers, ask questions, and share ideas about local priorities in a relaxed setting with delicious food and refreshments.

MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

March 19 and April 16 at 1 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

The Monthly Food Distribution is a community resource here for you, your family, your neighbors - everyone! The dates are March 19 and April 16 located at Greenbelt Community Center at 1:00pm while supplies last. Please don't forget to bring your CAFB card! Don't have one? You can sign-up for a free card same-day and receive food.

ADDITIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Monday, March 2 from 11am-1pm
Springhill Lake Recreational Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln

There will be an additional food distribution held at Springhill Lake Recreation Center this Monday. Please remember to bring bags! Register online at: <https://forms.gle/zHe77JbA633xkxp46>

Questions? Contact Cesar Herrera, Community Health Case Worker, at 240-241-0037 or Canela Bascolo, Public Health Intern, at 410-575-4058.

FREE VISION & HEARING SCREENINGS

March 30 from 10am-12 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

GAIL presents **Once Upon A Greenbelt!** This event is for Greenbelt Residents only.

The GAIL program, in partnership with the Lions Club, is providing free vision and hearing screenings for parents and children in elementary and middle school. This initiative is designed to encourage children to put down the tech and dive into a fun book with family. The event helps ensure that children and parents can see clearly, read confidently, and build a strong foundation for learning.

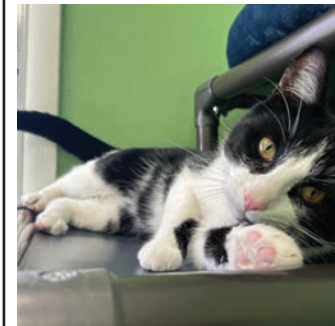
50+ WORKFORCE TECH SKILLS!

Helping Seniors Navigate Today's Digital World with Confidence
Community Center, Ground Floor East

Join our 50+ Workforce Tech Skills workshops to boost your digital confidence and learn essential online tools for modern job searching. Each session focuses on a key skill to help you find, apply for, and manage job opportunities in today's digital age.

March 12 – Getting Started with LinkedIn: Job Searching in the Digital Age: Learn how to use online tools and social media to search for jobs and strengthen your digital job search skills.

March 26 – Using Job Search Engines: Discover how to research and evaluate employment opportunities using popular job sites like Indeed. Register now at <https://forms.gle/GUBUZoBpksAeqmkH7>.



FEATURED PETS

Prince
Ready for Adoption?
Call (301) 474-6124

1-year-old Prince has been at the shelter for a few months, and we can't fathom why he's been overlooked by adopters! This Prince Charming has really got it all – a handsome tuxedo coat, captivating eyes, and a charming personality. Prince has been housed in the kitten room and has gotten along so great with all of them, and we think he'd do really great with another playful cat like himself. In addition to his fun personality, he also loves to cuddle and be held.

If you're interested in adopting Prince Charming, please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124.



GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/calendar.



*** VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES ***
APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Charter Review Task Force, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltnmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/list.aspx.

March Artful Afternoons

3/1, 1-2pm & 2-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) and 3/8, 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center). Enjoy a FREE painting activity inspired by the current exhibition of work by Amy Sherald at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Please sign up here: sugeni.us/ePwG. Walk-ins also welcome as space and supplies allow.

Friends & Family Workshop: Make Your Own Mask-ot

3/8, 2pm *Greenbelt Community Center* In The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant, the twin knights each have their own bird mascot. Come and make a your own "mask-ot" by decorating a mask to wear. This workshop takes place between the two shows scheduled for that day.

YOUTH MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Greenbelt Community Center gym

Tickets required for both shows; contact the Community Center business office: 301-397-2208.

- **"The School For Super-Heroes Presents 'Orlando Furioso', The Musical."** 3/7 at 7pm, 3/8 at 3pm, 3/14 at 2pm & 7pm. (Tickets: \$5).
- **"The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant"**, a prologue to "Orlando Furioso" suitable for young audiences. 3/8 at 1pm and 3/13 at 7pm. (Tickets: free).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

Council Attends to Business: Funding Contracts, Aiding Youth

by Larry Beyna

The February 19 issue of the News Review included two articles about the Greenbelt City Council’s review of proposed standing rules at its February 9 regular meeting. One article reported on three standing rules, which, if finally adopted, would affect public participation. The other article reported on a rule that would eliminate recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at council meetings. This article covers other council actions taken at the February 9 meeting. (Some discussions are not included as the remote comments could not always be heard.)

COG Plan

Council gave a second reading to a resolution supporting endorsement of the Council of Governments’ (COG’s) DMV Moves Plan and Funding Proposal. Mayor Emmett Jordan described the resolution as joining regional partners in supporting COG in addressing critical mobility challenges facing the region, with sustainable equitable funding mechanisms to support transit, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. “These are priorities that we’ve consistently championed here in Greenbelt,” he said. “By endorsing this proposal we’re reinforcing Greenbelt’s commitment to regional collaboration and signaling our support for transportation investment that reduces congestion, expands multi-modal access and advances environmental sustainability. ... Our endorsement also strengthens our collective voice in municipalities like ours together working with the counties in the region to try to move the state and federal review processes.”

Resident Bill Orleans urged council not to endorse the COG plan because there is no dedicated funding from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia to implement it – and funding may never occur. In response, Jordan noted that the plan includes a commitment to securing \$460 million in new annual regional funding, and if it was possible to get that funding, COG certainly would have done that. As of now, though, Jordan said, this plan is “a roadmap that spells out what the financial imperatives are because we are ... facing an operating deficit and the potential of a fiscal cliff in a few years. So, COG is doing what it can.” Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

PSAC Name Change

Council gave the first reading to another resolution: to change the name of council’s Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to the Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety (ACAPS). Early in the meeting, Peggy Higgins, chair of the committee, thanked council for having put this “modernization” of the committee’s name on the agenda. Councilmember Silke Pope, who did the first reading, noted with a touch of humor her agreement with the committee that ACAPS is a much better-sounding acronym than PSAC. The resolution

now proceeds to a second reading and adoption at a future meeting.

Contracts

In other business, council voted to authorize the city manager to pay Axon Enterprise, Inc. of Scottsdale, Ariz., \$141,383 for the second year of a five-year contract, which had been approved in 2024 and has been allocated in the approved Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The contract covers various services and equipment Axon provided to the city’s police department.

Recreation Dept. Support

Council also allocated \$5,000 from the Council Grants-Miscellaneous account to the Recreation Department’s Financial Assistance Fund. As of three days before the meeting, the fund balance had dwindled to \$150, significantly limiting the city’s ability to help needy families seeking support for registering their children for summer camp. Registration opened on February 9, the day of the meeting, so adding funds was urgently needed. Before the unanimous vote, Councilmember Kristen Weaver noted that the city’s “budget will be tight next year ... so, we should try to find community organizations that can support these scholarships (e.g., for children’s participation in summer camp). It doesn’t have to be only the city to do this.” Councilmember Amy Knesel echoed Weaver’s suggestion.

Bill Tracking

Finally, council used a consolidated bill-tracking document to review bills under consideration by the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate and the Prince George’s County Council. Councilmember Jenni Pompei first enumerated 13 bills that could affect Greenbelt and then moved that council support them. Jordan seconded but noted that council support at this time could change if the bills changed over time.

Former mayor J Davis then offered some advice to the council: “Once you vote to support, what are you actually going to do about it? Simply writing a letter is easy to do. Does staff write the letter or does council? Because that’s more work for staff. ... Make sure that what you choose is really something that Greenbelt needs. And does it have more than one sponsor, because some of these bills are simply bills that a sponsor puts in to make it look good when it’s an election year and he or she has no intention to push it.” Davis also encouraged council to ensure that a bill is filed in both the House and the Senate because if it isn’t, many of those bills don’t go anywhere. “So, there’s a lot more to it than just saying ‘Oh, this sounds like a really great bill,’ but does it really help Greenbelt residents? Is it really something that seems to have ‘oomph’ behind it that people are going to support?”

Thanking Davis for the advice, Jordan said that council is actually incorporating most of her suggestions into its thinking

with the help of its two legislative affairs contractors. Designating bills that council supports at this time puts council in position to act quickly if a hearing is coming up, by writing a letter or actually going to Annapolis to testify in support.

After more discussion and increasing the number of bills to support to 16, council voted unanimously to support those bills, moved on to the agenda item on its standing rules and then adjourned.

Volunteers Needed For Tool Library

The Greenbelt Makerspace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email us at staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt Makerspace is accessed via the exterior stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.

Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. February’s theme is Field Mice and Voles. The March theme is Frogs and Toads.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5772. Visit fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center for more information.

www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

I read with great interest your recent article in which Councilman Fritz proposed the removal of The Pledge of Allegiance from the opening of Council meetings. At meetings of most municipal governments, schools and fraternal organizations throughout our state and nation, the Pledge is recited to promise allegiance to our Nation’s flag and our republic. It is a patriotic exercise which aspires to promote national unity, with liberty and justice for all.

In a local government setting, the Pledge serves as a reminder that both elected officials and citizens are accountable to principles greater than personal opinions or political differences. It frames public discussion in the context of shared national values and encourages unity as we work through difficult issues together.

In 1954, the phrase ‘under God’ was added to recognize the historical role that faith has played in the development of our nation. In the decades since, several state and federal appellate courts have affirmed that the words ‘under God’ are part of a voluntary patriotic expression rather than a religious requirement and therefore do not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

The Pledge is not mandatory. Those who have concerns or who hold different beliefs are free to remain seated and silent. In this way, retaining the Pledge respects both the freedom of conscience and the diversity of our community. The very ability to choose not to participate is itself a reflection of the liberty and justice that the Pledge affirms.

For many of us, this moment is not merely ceremonial. It is a reminder of the sacrifices made by men and women in uniform, first responders, and countless citizens who have served our country and communities. Standing together for the Pledge has often symbolized unity in times of crisis and hope in times of uncertainty.

I also want to recognize that Councilmember Silke Pope was the only member of the council who spoke publicly against this proposed change during the discussion. Her willingness to express concern reflects an important commitment to open dialogue and to the traditions that have long helped unite our community.

Many families in Greenbelt have watched their children grow up reciting the Pledge in school and learning the responsibilities that come with citizenship. Retaining this tradition helps pass on these values to the next generation.

As neighbors and fellow citizens, we may not agree on every issue, but we share a responsibility to preserve the values that allow us to live and work together in peace and respect. I hope the Council will carefully consider the concerns raised by residents and by Councilmember Pope as this discussion continues.

As a lifelong resident of Greenbelt, a retired Prince George’s County Firefighter, a retired U.S. Army Warrant Officer, and a six-term Commander of Greenbelt American Legion Post 136, I respectfully urge the Council to retain the Pledge of Allegiance as a meaningful expression of respect for our shared history, the sacrifices that have preserved our freedoms, and the hope we desire to pass on to future generations. In a time when division is common, this simple tradition can continue to remind us that we are one community, united in liberty and justice for all.

Sincerely,
Greg Gigliotti
Commander, Greenbelt American Legion Post 136



School News

Students Trade Sleds for Laptops In Throwback Virtual Snow Day

by ERHS students in Journalism I and II

A winter storm swept through Prince George's County on Sunday, dumping two to four inches of snow. Wet snow caused traffic issues and left streets slick and slushy, delaying schools all around the state. Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) initially announced a two-hour delay, but as conditions seemed to worsen, officials shifted to a day of virtual learning instead.

After the county's announcement Sunday night, on Monday, February 23, county teachers, students and parents prepared for their first synchronous virtual learning since January 2022. [Editor's note: PGCPS has included asynchronous virtual learning days in recent years but not the live real-time instruction of synchronous virtual learning, which the Maryland State Department of Education requires take place for a minimum of four hours in order for the day to count toward the 180 instructional days required in the school year.] On Monday, resuming on a two-hour delay schedule, students and teachers found themselves back at their desks, offices or bedrooms ready for over four hours of synchronous virtual instruction. Here's a quick look at how residents reacted to the virtual snow day.

Student Experiences

Angelina Wiseman, a junior at a PGCPS school, had mixed feelings after joining her virtual classes. She says, "[Virtual learning is] better than being stuck in traffic on icy roads, but seeing everyone's faces in little boxes again is a trip. It feels insane to be back here."

With almost every student in Prince George's County attempting to log in to Canvas, many students experienced difficulties with the program. Eric Nwaha, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), expressed that Canvas was taking "47 business days to load," and he wasn't the only one. Many other students experienced the same problems. Senior Vincent Chen voiced his



A student's view of their virtual classroom, where most classmates have their cameras off and are represented by avatars. Snacks sit on the blanket beside the laptop.

PHOTO BY KATHERINE RANKEL

proactive preparation."

Teacher Perspectives

The criticism wasn't limited to students. Many teachers viewed the sudden shift to virtual learning as problematic for some students. Jennifer Thorson, a science teacher at Beltsville Academy, said that "virtual learning only works for some kids, and some teachers are better at [virtual learning] than others." Many students have trouble paying attention during online school, and some teachers may have trouble getting students to participate during a virtual day. She also comments that, despite online learning challenges, "the current online academy has higher graduating rates than PGCPS as a whole," indicating the possible success of a virtual learning schedule.

Parent Views

Meanwhile, several parents voiced their opinions concerning the virtual day, some believing it to be unnecessary. "It's not much snow," said Chad Samuells, a local father. "School could have been open, it's not as bad as a few weeks ago." Stephanie Rizk, another local parent, agreed. "Now you know what it feels like when everyone has a snow day, and you still have to go to work," laughed Oluwaseun Balogun, another local parent.

Summing Up

This inclement weather day and the shift to temporary virtual learning seemed to be unpopular, especially among parents and students who faced technological issues. However, there were just as many benefits as there were faults, like how this impromptu virtual day negated the addition of school days before summer break. With the number of days the January storm took from students, many days are needed, and even though it was still a day of school, there are memories to be found in its similarity to learning during the pandemic.

Canvas Struggles

Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph noted in his letter to parents and educators following the virtual learning day that PGCPS "proactively prepared" Canvas for the possible virtual learning day. Despite all of this preparation, Canvas still underperformed on February 23, preventing both students and teachers from getting to classes on time and causing issues when accessing assignments, as Canvas refused to load. Joseph acknowledges this in his letter as well, as he states, "Our online platform, Canvas, experienced initial bandwidth challenges despite



Girl Scout cookies, water bottle, blankets, a laptop and a cozy spot for virtual learning

PHOTO BY SADIE YOUNG

frustration, saying, "the technical difficulties made it extremely hard to attend lesson[s] or even do work."

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PGCPS continued from page 1

Arundel County, which operate under an hours-only requirement.

C. Douglas Hollis Jr., business continuity officer for PGCPS, acknowledged the tension between honoring traditions and maintaining flexibility for inclement weather, brought up by Tiffini Andorful, District 1 school board member and Aimee Olivo, District 4 school board member.

"We've done some searches of past years where we've had school on some of those days. Particularly those that may be religious in nature or religious observance ... and it has not had the impact in terms of operational impact from our teachers and students in attendance," said Hollis Jr. "We do the best we can, and we are sensitive to it. We want to respect the beliefs of all our community members."

The school year calendar includes a limited number of make-up days. Reducing them, officials said, could create uncertainty for families later in the year if additional closures occur.

Eric C. Olson, Prince George's County Councilmember representing District 3, expressed his opposition and concern to Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph and Board of Education Chair Brannndon Jackson. This decision goes against the school system's values and implies a religious hierarchy, stated Olson.

Meanwhile Montgomery County Public Schools have revoked their decision to use Eid al-Fitr as an inclement weather make-up day.

Muslim Council Reacts

Community leaders say PGCPS' decision marks the first time since the holiday was added to the calendar that Eid al-Fitr has been used as a make-up day.

Jameel Aalim-Johnson, president of the Prince George's County Muslim Council, said the community is disturbed by this decision. Local members are taking action by emailing board members.

"It was Prince George's County Muslim Council that worked with the members of the Board of Education and the former CEO to get Eid as a day off, both for students and faculty and administrators," said Aalim-Johnson. "So this is the first time that we're dealing with them using our holidays as a make-up day for inclement weather."

"We find this to be somewhat discriminatory," Aalim-Johnson said. "When this decision was made, they skipped over Presidents' Day. They went to the Eid holiday. They then skip over Good Friday and Easter Monday, spring break days. So, it's as if they're saying, leave all the other days alone, but target the Muslim holidays."

Parents Forced to Choose

Jessica Carroll, a College Park parent whose son attends Dora Kennedy French Immersion School in Greenbelt, said the change forces families into a difficult position. "I mean, for me personally, I feel a bit frustrated," Carroll said. "It feels like he's not getting the same opportunity to celebrate his holiday in the way that other religions are more protected in the calendar."

Similar to Christmas or Eas-

ter, families may attend religious services and then rejoice with friends and other family members over dinner, bringing gifts for the young ones and cherishing memories. "It's a day of celebration. It's a day of visiting family and friends, and really, just like being with your family and celebrating that you've kind of completed this whole month of fasting," Carroll said.

She described the board discussion as dismissive. And after weighing her options, Carroll is leaning toward not sending her son to school. Her son's cultural identity and upbringing are important to him, and she does not want to deny them. "It was disappointing to listen to the board meeting ... and have it be reduced to whether it was ... operationally significant for the district or not," Carroll said. "It felt very insensitive."

Recognition a Milestone

Zayd Mahfuz, a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt and current president of the Muslim Students' Association at the University of Maryland, recalled how meaningful the 2021 calendar change was. "Everyone around me was so happy," Mahfuz said. "It was a really big step forward for inclusivity and for the large and growing Muslim population." He said the reversal feels discouraging.

"It feels like a step backward instead of taking other measures first," Mahfuz said. "That one holiday that we got during the school year for Muslims was such a big ... step for us, like we felt that we were being included."

Before the holiday was added to the calendar, students often missed school for Eid and returned with excused absence notes, sometimes missing tests or new instruction. "My older brother ... had to miss the Eid prayer and go to school," Mahfuz said of one year when a test conflicted with the holiday.

Advocates in Prince George's County say they hope district leaders reconsider in future calendar revisions. For many families, they say, the issue extends beyond a single day.

"People understanding the existence of members of the Muslim community in this larger community who are affected by policy," Aalim-Johnson said, is at the heart of the concern.

As March 20 approaches, some families plan to keep their children home. Others hope the controversy will lead to clearer policies and stronger protections for religious observances in future school years.

Laura Charleston is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



Ready ... set ... go! Let's see who lasts longer.

PHOTO BY PAOLO GALLI



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We are looking for middle aged and older (>40 y/o) participants with normal hearing or up to a moderate hearing loss. Those with a conductive hearing loss are not eligible.

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OR CALL 301-405-7715 FOR DETAILS.

Auditory Perception and Modeling Lab

School News

PROTEST continued from page 1



Students hold signs, flags, and each other aloft during their protest against ICE.

to get better.”

“We are the future, and it has always been important that you speak up,” added Kasiye Woubeshet, who is also a co-leader and junior. “If you’re silent and you’re apathetic, and even if you do care but you’re not doing anything, that is still [being complicit],” said Woubeshet. When asked if they knew anyone who had experiences with ICE, Anamara, Diaz and Ridge all recalled stories of relatives or people they knew who had been taken by ICE.

“You would think that ‘oh, this wouldn’t happen to me’ but it can happen to you,” Anamara explained. Woubeshet then described the fear and lack of safety immigrants experience daily: “This isn’t right, this isn’t how it should be.”

Though the protesters were not able to show their signs directly toward local roads, they still proudly held their signs up high and took pictures of their peers with their signs to spread their message on social media. A few of those pictures can be found in this article, and the rest can be found @studentsagainstice_, which is the official account on Instagram and main point of contact with members of SAI.

Students’ Suggestions

Students Against ICE gave the following suggestions for immigration reform: a clearer pathway to citizenship; more exposure to classes for the citizenship test to increase accessibility; making citizenship affordable through financial aid programs for undocumented immigrants who cannot afford the process of naturalization; and access to due process for the hundreds now held in detention centers who have been detained without a warrant. Though undocumented immigrants are not citizens, it is still their right to be given a fair and just trial, say the student leaders, who want to see ICE’s power restricted. With the way ICE abuses its power daily, there should be more limits to protect the victims targeted and more accountability for ICE agents’ violence toward victims,

they argue. They anxiously wait for action to be taken against ICE, as every day new cases are added to its agents’ already long list of immoral behavior.

Plea from the Youth

The students ask that Governor Wes

Moore continue to support and protect Maryland’s immigrant communities and demand that the federal government abolish ICE, especially when the tax dollars currently funding it can go to more important departments, such as education and healthcare, which have suffered significant losses in funding under the Trump Administration. Until then, our youth will continue to protest for a better future for themselves and for others.

Ashlyn Calderon is a student at ERHS writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



Students hold signs outside ERHS on February 13.

- Photos by ERHS student

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Youth Musical 2026

Orlando Returns, with Friends in Tow

by Max Cason



PHOTO BY CHRIS CHERRY

In rehearsals for the youth musical, Rodomont (Donovan Amin) prepares to knock Aquilant (Lucy Bindel) into the river.

Forty-five young actors will take the stage next week at the Community Center to perform Orlando Furioso, a Greenbelt audience favorite that is returning after a decade. Based on the Renaissance epic about the swash-buckling adventures of the knights of Charlemagne, the show features heroic swordplay, stirring songs and musical theater magic.

In addition to four performances of Orlando, the cast is presenting two free performances of a mini-musical, The Adventures of Griffon and Aquilant, in which the twin knights Griffon the White and Aquilant the Black encounter sorcery and betrayal on an eventful journey by land and sea.

Though they are set in legendary days of yore, the shows celebrate noble values that audience members will find refreshing and uplifting in today’s turbulent world. In Orlando Furioso, the hero proclaims that everyone has a place at the table of life, and he seeks to transform every foe into a friend, while Griffon and Aquilant conclude with a hope-

ful bilingual anthem of unity and welcome.

Orlando Furioso will be performed on Saturday, March 7 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 8 at 3 p.m.; and Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Griffon and Aquilant will be performed on Sunday, March 8 at 1 p.m. and Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

Both shows are productions of the Greenbelt Youth Musical, an annual program offered by the Greenbelt Recreation Department. Tickets are available from the Community Center business office at 301-397-2208. Theatergoers are strongly advised to obtain tickets in advance for these popular shows.

GriefShare

Grief

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Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

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February 24-May19
Greenbelt Baptist Church
101 Greenhill Rd (301-474-4212)
griefshare.org/findagroup
Look under "Greenbelt, MD"

griefshare.org

Community Art Weekly Meet-Ups

Enjoy two free weekly meet-ups at the Community Center. Yarn & Darn meets on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a knitting, crocheting, embroidery, cross stitch or other fiber art project to work on in a relaxing environment.

Craft and Create, a new group for ages 18+, meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project in progress, or enjoy a new themed project each week. Bring personal supplies, or use what the group members provide. Both groups meet in the Community Center, Room 113. For more information, email alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov or mcason@greenbeltmd.gov. For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.



NEW LISTING!

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This Greenbriar Phase 1 condo is an easy choice for anyone with high standards who simply has no time for renovations.

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Overcoming Racism and Hate; Refuge Screened at New Deal

by Kurt Stand

To honor the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Reel and Meal screened the documentary Refuge on January 19, depicting the transformation of a one-time Ku Klux Klan leader into a person able to embrace all people. Watching the movie at the New Deal Café was a tonic in these times of hate-filled political rhetoric and the arrests and deportations of our immigrant neighbors. By contrast, Refuge (a film directed by Din Blankenship and Erin Bernhardt in 2021) underscores the truth of King’s belief that “unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

Christopher Buckley’s journey to the Klan took root while he served as a Marine on battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan. Having witnessed the death of friends in combat and suffering multiple battlefield injuries, Buckley developed a blind hatred of Muslims that he carried home with him. Further complicating his story is the physical pain he suffered due to his war wounds – a pain treated with opioids that left him addicted and on the path toward other, harsher drugs. Living in the impoverished community of Lafayette, Ga., Buckley was drawn to the Klan, which spoke to the resentments of a rural white population that perceived immigrant communities as getting preferential treatment from the federal government.

The story might end there, but for his wife, Melissa Buckley. She stayed with him supportively through his addiction and rehab, but drew the line at the Klan, explaining that she had “mixed blood” relatives and their blood was no different than her own. She connected Buckley with Arno Michaelis, himself a former racist white nationalist, who had become an anti-racist intervenor, and he worked with Buckley to break down some of his prejudices. But the greatest hurdle for him was overcoming hatred of Muslims.

That changed when Michaelis introduced Buckley to Dr. Heval Kelli, a Kurdish Muslim refugee working as a cardiologist. Kelli received his medical degree while living in Clarkston, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta. Clarkston, once almost all white, became a largely immigrant community after industries that had been the lifeblood of the town pulled out – a transition that brought resources to the entire community and thus was welcomed by older residents who saw their town revived and becoming more vibrant.

Yet those immigrants who arrived came with their own trauma – displaced from their homelands by war and oppression. Kelli explained that he and his family first immigrated from Syria to



Refuge movie poster

PHOTO COURTESY REFUGEMOVIE.COM

Germany, where as a boy he experienced racist bullying and may well have grown up to be an angry, hateful person had they stayed. His father, arrested and tortured before emigrating, today lives with his family but rarely leaves his room – not only because of such experiences, but because of feeling useless because he’s no longer his family’s provider.

Over the course of their interactions Buckley came to see people as individuals to be judged for who they are. He also realized immigrant communities had values no different than those he has known, even if expressed differently. In this context, Kelli and Buckley – and their respective families – became friends and shared a new understanding. And Buckley himself took on the work of reaching out to others caught in the grip of racist extremism.

Adding to the film’s depth, the documentary looks at conditions that help sustain or undermine community. Kelli saw the blight and poverty of Clarkston – a poverty experienced by whites that he never knew existed, and thus he recognized that people there need resources and support that are currently lacking. He came to understand how people whose roots are in the U.S. might resent the success of newly arrived immigrants. Mina, the 90-year old matriarch of the community, an immigrant who survived much over the course of her years, explains the reason Clarkston has been so successful as a community: affordable housing, public transit, walkability – features that all urban communities need. That, too, is part of King’s legacy: mutual understanding and racial justice require overcoming poverty and economic injustice, without which hatreds and prejudices will remain.

The film notes the critical difference between nationalism and patriotism. Nationalism places one’s own country or heritage above all others, creating a hierarchy that stands opposed to equality. Patriotism is a commitment to all who live within society and pushes us to change what needs changing. It is rooted in an equality that accepts difference.

Following the screening, Daryl Johnson, author of Hateland: A Long Hard Look at America’s Extremist Heart, answered questions about his own experiences in understanding and working to “de-radicalize” people caught in the grip of hate groups. The film was sponsored by the Greenbelt Baha’i community to reflect their faith’s vision of the oneness of humanity.



FAIR HOUSING cont. from page 1

Auerbach, Bert and Marj Donn, Jan and Jean Turkiewicz and John and Pat Unger. Their professions and university degrees included a Goddard engineer, a driver for an integrated taxi company, a BARC scientist, social workers, a music teacher and an English degree.

In April 2025, the News Review interviewed Marj Donn, Jean Turkiewicz and Marcie Walder, and adult children Rachel Turkiewicz Alexander, Hopi Auerbach, Marie Unger and David and Judy Walder for their memories of what followed Leo’s attempt. (See box for other sources for this article.)

August 1963

Walder found a Greenbelt apartment for the student and paid a deposit to the manager, who asked if the prospective tenants were “colored,” which he answered with “No more than you or I.” Ten days later, the manager phoned to say the apartment wasn’t available. When staff at other Greenbelt apartments told him they didn’t accept Negroes, he took the young couple to the Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) sales office, whose staff showed them a North End unit. That evening the home was removed from the market.

GCFH Formation, Reactions

Leo couldn’t let it rest. The August 29, 1963, News Review noted the formation of Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing (GCFH) by 16 founders including the Auerbachs, Turkiewiczes, Ungers and Walders. The September 26, 1963, News Review advertised an October 2 public information meeting, with objectives including promoting community acceptance of minority group families. Speakers were from the American Friends Service Committee’s Metropolitan Washington Housing Program, the Washington Center for Metropolitan Study and Dr. Karl Gregory, described as a Negro civic leader. Gregory had been rejected as a home purchaser at Bowie’s Belair sales office, where 35 to 40 new homes were being sold weekly to whites.

The October 10, 1963 News Review reported that

200 speakers and attendees focused on integrating GHI, saying integration would come to Greenbelt “probably in the reasonable future” and “Negro families moving in would not inundate the community.” One resident said GHI applicant screening would continue to control purchasers, though his



PHOTO COURTESY WALDER FAMILY

When an apartment manager told Leo Walder they wouldn’t rent to his Black student in 1963, Walder helped found Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing and advocated for housing integration in Greenbelt.

only objection would be if a “Negro” applicant were rejected solely due to color. Also discussed were studies showing property values in newly integrated areas dropped where white families departed and rose where they stayed.

A letter to the editor in the same issue from Lakewood resident Gordon Gemeny believed GCFH’s goal was GHI integration. Gemeny wrote that though he didn’t object to a few Negro families he didn’t want to live in a predominantly Negro community, nor want his sons to marry Negroes. He said GCFH should not force integration, nor use picketing or sit-ins “to generate racial tension.” He recommended surveying GHI residents to see how many would stay at various integration levels, and planning GCFH actions accordingly, to avoid seeing Greenbelt “degenerate.”

The October 17, 1963, News Review contained six letters for and against GCFH. Bob Auerbach countered Gemeny’s “idea that no Negro should move in until a substantial majority votes for integration” with “If not one person in Greenbelt wants Negroes to move in, Negroes must nevertheless be free to do so.” In April 2025, Judy Walder told Hopi Auerbach, “Your dad wrote this brilliant reply and took him point for point. He was so kind but so smart.” GCFH wrote that integrating Greenbelt wouldn’t bring ill effects if concerned citizens worked to avoid them, emphasizing their commitment to discussion and not forcing integration, preferring to avoid nearby “militant actions.” (They may have been referring to picketing and sit-ins at Bowie’s Belair by the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE).) Letters that month variously described GCFH as “a most silly and senseless organization,” recommended against a referendum or advised Greenbelters it was their choice whether to integrate with GCFH or CORE methods.

On October 24, 1963, the GHI board rejected a referendum by 5 to 2, for reasons including questionable propriety and legality and questionable validity of the results, and avoiding polarizing opinions and making Greenbelt a target for external forces.

Fair Housing Education

University of Maryland sociology graduate student Kaye Sizer Noe wrote in her 1965 thesis that resistance to GCFH was by individuals, not organized. She wrote that by November 1964 GCFH settled into educational events and engaging the city council. The News Review archives document events including a film, To Find a Home, in 1964, a property values talk and interfaith discussion of The Racially Mixed Community in 1965, 1966 talks about a proposed Maryland fair housing bill and a fair housing pledge for faith communities; a July 1966 anti-segregation motorcade between Greenbelt and the University of Maryland; and a 1967 Open Occupancy Ordinance for Prince

See FAIR HOUSING, page 16



PRELIMINARY AGENDA Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on March 5, 2026

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on February 5, 2026
- b) Legal Matters
- c) Financial Matters
- d) Contract Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on February 5, 2026
- b) Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on March 5, 2026
- c) YARDI Survey Results
- d) 2025 End-of-Year Management Report
- e) Review of 2025 Strategic Plan
- f) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on March 19, 2026

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Black History

Students Recognized as Greenbelt Celebrates Black History Month

by Stephen Lotz

Greenbelt’s Black History and Culture Committee celebrated Black History Month on Saturday, February 21, with a program honoring the contributions of Black Americans to history and society.

The celebration included a formal proclamation recognizing Black American achievements, as well as an essay contest for Greenbelt Middle School students that highlighted the accomplishments of distinguished Black individuals. Winners received official citations from State Senator Alonzo Washington’s office along with monetary awards provided by the Greenbelt Rotary Club. Council also recognized the essay winners at their February 23 meeting.

First-place winner Lise-Bell Tagne earned \$200 for her essay on Dr. Gladys West, the accomplished mathematician whose work contributed to the development of GPS technology. Second-



Greenbelt City Council recognizes Greenbelt Middle School winners of the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee’s Black History Month Essay Contest on Monday, February 23. Winners (front with certificates) from left, Lise-Bell Tagne, Geo Robles and Nathanbryel Fomo attended with their families. The contest required students to write about an individual in Black History. The winners wrote about mathematician Gladys West, personal computer inventor Dr. Mark Dean, and physicist Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson.

place winner Geo Robles received \$150 for writing about Dr. Mark Dean and his instrumental role in the creation of the IBM personal computer. Third-place winner Nathanbryel Fomo was awarded \$125 for his essay on Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, the first Black American woman to earn a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The program also featured libations honoring prominent Black American figures, including Jesse

Jackson, who died February 17; civil rights activist Joanne Bland, who died February 19; and Malcolm X. Historical reenactments portrayed the stories of Charlotte Forten Grimké, Mary Ann Lumpkin and members of the United States Colored Troops.

The event ended with a call for continued community support, encouraging residents to celebrate Black history through an art exhibit at the New Deal Café and by attending the reopening of the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, D.C.

Stephen Lotz is a University of Maryland Student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning for the Greenbelt News Review.

Black History

Popup Museum Brings Black Artifacts to Greenbelt, Beyond

by Regina Shaw Small

As Black History Month 2026 comes to a close, we are reminded that Black History should be celebrated 365 days a year, not just during the month of February. Regina’s Black Artifacts Popup Museum (RBAPM), has a mission rooted in the belief that understanding history, culture and identity is essential to building empowered and inclusive communities. Through the collection of more than 350 Black artifacts spanning from enslavement to the White House, RBAPM engages the public in meaningful conversations about race, resilience, progress and representation for all.

One of the highlights for RBAPM this year was the opportunity to present to an entire class of hearing-impaired students, with sign language interpreters on hand



The HBCU section of the museum

exhibits.

More than 700 visitors attended RBAPM events this year, a testament to the community’s commitment to learning, dialogue and shared history.

A special thank you to Mayor Tiffany Papanikolas of Berwyn Heights and Mayor Emmett Jordan of Greenbelt for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit our exhibits and show their support.

As we close the chapter on Black History Month, be on the lookout for RBAPM in the coming months, especially at the Prince George’s County 250 (PGC250) Block Party on May 30 at the Bowie Performing Arts Center and Bowie Library, as well as upcoming Juneteenth celebrations.

The work continues because Black history is American history, every day of the year.

Regina Small is the curator of Regina’s Black Artifacts Popup Museum.



A voting rights display

to ensure full accessibility and engagement. Moments like these reaffirm why we do this work.

If you learned even one new thing from your RBAPM experience, you are encouraged to Pay It Forward and share that knowledge and tell someone else.

Due to the busy schedule, RBAPM began programming even before February officially started. This year, RBAPM reached audiences from Columbia, Md. to Alexandria, Va., and places in between.

We extend sincere appreciation to the staff, administrators and community leaders who made it possible for them to bring to life stories that have too often been lost, ignored or forgotten.

We were also honored by special appearances from character reenactors and interpreters portraying Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, which added powerful historical depth to our



Representations of the Jim Crow Era

- Photos by Regina Small

Black History

CR Gibbs Talks to Golden Age Club About Slavery in England, Americas

by Mary Moien and Wayne Williams

On February 11, in honor of Black History Month, the Greenbelt Golden Age Club invited Carroll “CR” Gibbs, noted historian and author, to address the club. Gibbs’ topic was To Follow the Path of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle of Blacks in England and the Americas. Many club members and guests were in attendance.

This topic put a different twist on the issue of the colonies and slavery. During the 18th century, England was heavily involved in the slave trade and the trade was a significant economic boon to

that country. So, although much of the English slave trade was centered in the colonies, the output of the trade was very important to England. Also during this time, abolitionists, Quakers and others in England were fighting to stop the slave trade there. (The Slavery Abolition Act took effect in England in 1834, decades before slavery’s abolishment in the United States.)

In the colonies, prior to and during the American Revolution, enslaved persons were trying to see if they had a better chance at freedom by joining forces with

the British or with the revolutionaries. Many enslaved persons joined each side. It is noteworthy that Crispus Attucks, an African American born into slavery, is considered the first death of the American Revolution. He was killed in 1770 during the Boston Massacre.

Gibbs presents many topics in the Washington area, including at both Prince George’s County and Washington, D.C., libraries. He has authored several books including one on Blacks in Georgetown and one on Black explorers over the centuries.



Greenbelter Marc Manheimer stands with the News Review in front of the mural featuring Bad Bunny in Vega Baja Puerto Rico where Bad Bunny grew up.

Tax Preparation Assistance

AARP’s income tax return preparation assistance has resumed this year in Greenbelt, coordinated through GIVES. It takes place on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Greenbelt Fire Department, 125 Crescent Road, by appointment only. Call 301-941-7123 to make an appointment.



Jonas Noll

November 12, 2011 - January 16, 2026

Jonas was always meant to be larger than life. Born to be a guide dog for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and raised by Frank, Ellen and Alice Noll, he quickly determined that he would rather be a Therapy Dog for Fidos For Freedom. His favorite visits were with the Mowatt Dogwalkers, Fidos Juniors and the Baltimore Children’s Museum. Moving to Missouri, he instantly made friends with Commerce Bank, the Barkery, Soil Service and Southerlands. His favorite friends were Jessie and SunBear Meltzer and Adele and the Snellink family.

His favorite hobbies were begging, swimming, riding in the car and elevators. His favorite song was Schumann’s Remembrance. He always preferred to listen to the voices in his head and thought others should do the same. He was patient and kind but could be caught muttering under his breath. His goal was to love and be loved.



COUNCIL continued from page 1

of the projects, with an emphasis on projects tied to external grants or other funding or with external partners necessary to the project's completion. These factors affect the ranking given to those projects in order to prevent possible loss of funding. Projects were rated by priority: high (imminent need, necessary in 1 to 3 years), medium (4 to 7 years) and low (over 8 years.) The ranking of a project was made by considering the cost of the project and its priority.

Salmerón noted that of the \$65M total for unfunded projects, \$8.7M is estimated for the 18 high priority projects, \$50M for the 23 listed as medium priority and \$6M for a single project listed as low priority.

Armory

The first project discussed was the armory. Salmerón noted, and resident Bill Orleans emphatically reiterated in his comments, that staff is waiting for council's direction on how it wishes to proceed with the armory site, as the longer it sits vacant, the higher the cost for its final disposition will be. Remediating the building, not including fitting it to its final purpose, a medium priority, is listed as costing about \$10M, and demolishing it is estimated to cost \$1M. Salmerón recommended demolishing the structure, a high priority, as its rehabilitation costs will be "prohibitive."

Greenbelt Station Trail

The next two items on the list are rated high, Salmerón explained, because of the potential loss of grant money: the Greenbelt Station Trail and the upgrades to the Greenbelt Museum. The Greenbelt Station Trail is estimated to cost \$4M, with \$1M in grants identified. About \$2M of the total amount is required for technology work required by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), such as cameras on the trail.

Museum Project

Grants have been obtained for the upgrades to the Greenbelt Museum, in the amount of \$300,000, with the total amount for the project estimated at \$660K. The two Maryland Historic Trust grants already awarded are at risk of being lost, Salmerón noted. He expressed the desire to hire a project manager to begin work on the 10-B Crecent Road house addition with the available funds.

Museum Director Megan Searing Young joined the meeting via Zoom. She announced that the project has been approved by Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and Public Works. Young explained that the two Maryland Historic Trust grants total \$150K and the Museum has obtained another grant for

\$50K. In response to a question from Jordan, she explained that the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum has raised some funds for the project but she advocated for hiring a professional fundraiser to assist with raising the additional funds. Salmerón expressed the opinion that spending \$40K, the estimated cost of the fundraiser, in order to raise \$300K was a good return on investment.

Cemetery Master Plan

Other high priority projects for which external funding is sought are the implementations of the Cemetery Master Plan recommendations (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) funding) and the Indian Creek Park master plan (Project Open Space funding).

Other Projects

The overview of the unfunded capital projects continued with discussion of other high priority projects. The Youth Center roof replacement has an estimated cost of \$1.5M. It has already been approved by the county, and Salmerón stated he expected approval by the Board of Public Works by February 18. (Our request for an update on approval was not returned by time of press.)

The structural remediation of the Community Center's 67 wing is estimated to cost \$250K. Elevators in the Community Center, Municipal Building and Police Station building are also high priority and have been partly funded; work should take place in the Community Center in August. Required improvements to the bridges on Cherrywood Lane over I-495 and the bridge over the creek at the Metro station do not have funding available. Salmerón emphasized that the improvements are to the walls and guardrails of the bridges. The structural integrity is not affected.

Schrom Hills Park field lights are expected to cost \$700K. The conversion of city streetlights to LED technology will be a good return on the investment of \$450K in three to six years, ac-

cording to Salmerón. The project is awaiting Pepco's approval of the city's chosen light fixtures. After some discussion by council of how to proceed in securing the approval, it was agreed that Salmerón will write a letter to the Public Utilities Commission.

Unfunded Medium Priority

Unfunded capital projects of medium priority were the next topic of discussion. The Cherrywood Lane Complete and Green Street Retrofit is estimated to cost \$12.5M but Salmerón said he is actively looking for an external source of funding for the project. The Springhill Lake Recreation Center addition, which would add a multipurpose room for meetings and classes is anticipated to cost \$2.5M, but some funding has been awarded through the federal earmarks program. The Wayfinding project, designed to bring attention and business to Roosevelt Center, drew three speakers in support. The project consists of façade improvements (funding of \$150K has already been received) and increased signage with an investment of \$300K. Dan Gillotte, general manager of Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy, Kim Kash of the Greenbelt Business Alliance and Caitlin McGrath, executive director of Greenbelt Cinema, advocated for the project, saying the Wayfinding project is necessary to make Roosevelt Center a destination. Salmerón stated he saw value in moving it to the high priority list to "create synergy" between the Wayfinding and façade improvement projects.

Other medium priority projects presented included the traffic calming work in center city, both short- and long-term improvements (\$530K and \$2.1M, respectively), Greenbelt East Trail segment 1 (\$3.6M), Hanover Parkway sidewalk gap improvements (\$283K), Youth Center HVAC work (\$3M) and playground improvements (\$4.75M for which Salmerón is seeking funding).

Councilmember Priorities

Jordan asked councilmembers for their priorities. The Greenbelt Station Trail, lights at the Schrom Hills Park ballfield, Wayfinding project, Greenbelt East Trail and streetlight conversion were mentioned most often. Councilmember Frankie Fritz, in naming his priorities, encouraged council to consider geographic parity, ensuring the funds are spent equally among the east, west and center parts of the city. Salmerón encouraged prioritizing fair wages and cost of living adjustment for staff and projects involving health and safety.

The discussion of vehicle replacement for the Police Department was joined by Police Chief Richard Bowers via Zoom. Jordan noted at the beginning of the discussion that about two years ago several police vehicles had been replaced using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds which has created a "bubble" of vehicles that will need to be replaced at the same time in the future. At least 15 vehicles are being recommended for replacement in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027, in addition to

the three vehicles purchased in FY 2025.

The criteria for replacement include age of the vehicle and its mileage, noting that some vehicles are allowed to be taken home by an officer, and that vehicles used for patrol and investigations receive heavy use. Maintenance expenses increase and reliability decreases as a vehicle ages, Bowers added. Bowers stated that the preferred vehicles are Ford Explorer hybrids, adding that the infrastructure is not present to make another electric vehicle feasible; a fast-charging system would be necessary. Weaver asked if any other sources of funding might be available, but Bowers replied that he wasn't aware of any. Salmerón expressed the opinion that it might be possible to replace at least six of the requested 15 vehicles.

Councilmembers discussed at length ways in which they might individually prioritize the projects and then reach consensus on council's priorities. Salmerón added that he will do his best to create a balanced budget for council's approval.

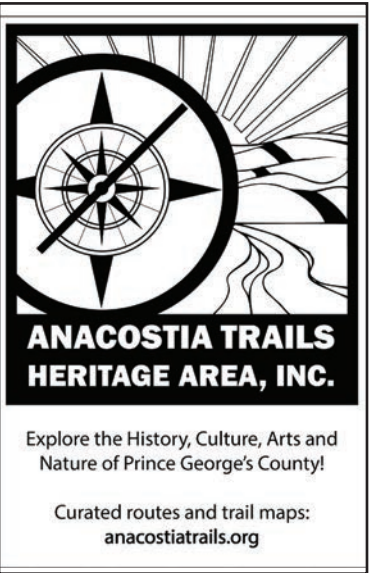
Reception March 5 For Exhibition Artists

Four of Greenbelt's visual artists are featured in Re/Generations: The Annual Prince George's County Exhibition. There will be a reception on Thursday, March 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the 2nd level of the Lowe House Office Building. The four artists are: Rachel Ann Cross, Greenbelt artist in residence; Celestine Ranney-Howes, Greenbelt fabric artist; Leah Cohen, Greenbelt visual arts instructor; and Racquel Keller, Greenbelt visual arts instructor. The show is running through April 14 at the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis. For more information, contact the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council at info@pgahc.org or 301-772-8943.

Quilts Across Maryland Display at Courthouse

Maryland Quilts 2026 is the 23rd exhibition of quilts on display at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse. Three floors of the atrium are alive with vibrant color, as the works of Maryland quiltmakers demonstrate a wide range of styles and techniques, illustrating the versatility of the quilt artists and the capabilities of the medium. The quiltmakers come from all across Maryland, including local artists from Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park.

The Courthouse is open to the public Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., except for federal holidays. The quilts will be on display through the end of March.



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



local

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local

Taharka Brothers

An employee-owned ice cream company based in Baltimore.



local

Dodah's Kitchen

A Mount Rainier based company featuring vegan desserts.



Ecos Cleaning

Eco-conscious household cleaning products.



Alaffia

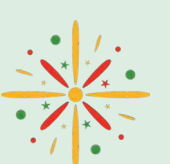
Bodycare products that use clean & fair-trade ingredients.



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 Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket & Pharmacy



Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 16 - 22, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death and four mental health diversions, two involving attempted suicide. A mother found her child who was missing from Bowie.

On February 17 near 7818 Cloister Place, a woman was reported missing, last seen wearing a black jacket, gray leggings and blue UGG boots.

Assault

On February 20 at 11:03 a.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, high school students reported that another student exposed himself.

On February 20 at 9:47 p.m. near 6101 Cherrywood Lane, a man, upset because he was not allowed into the Springhill Lake Recreation Center after hours, assaulted a staff member.

Sex Offense

On February 18 at 11:05 a.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, while a woman was shopping, an employee repeatedly passed her in a manner that made her uncomfortable, and, at one point, he groped her. Detectives were notified, and charges were submitted.

Robbery

On February 17 at 5:18 p.m. near 5829 Cherrywood Terrace, three juveniles robbed another juvenile of his jacket and ran toward the mall. Officers located suspects matching the description; when they saw the officers, all three ran. After a brief chase, they were detained.

On February 20 at 8:50 p.m. near 5805 Cherrywood Terrace, a man was robbed at gunpoint of his shoes.

Break-in

On February 17 at 2:48 a.m. near 7533 Greenbelt Road, three stores in Greenway Shopping Center (AT&T, Greenway Liquor and H&R Block) were broken into.

Threats

On February 16 at 8:19 p.m. near 9162 Edmonston Road, a woman warned a man's girlfriend about him cheating with her; the man threatened her.

Fraud

On February 17 near 7913 Mandan Road, a woman received a phone call from a man who claimed to work for Amazon. He sent multiple links which gave him access to her phone and

enabled him to obtain her debit card and banking information.

On February 22 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, a man received a phone call from someone claiming to be from the bank's fraud department, advising that his account had been compromised. The caller instructed him to send money to prevent fraudulent transactions. After sending the funds, the man was contacted by the legitimate bank fraud department and told that the initial call was fraudulent.

Shoplifting

On February 17 at 12:26 p.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a woman's eyeglass frame.

On February 21 at 2:55 a.m. near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a group of eight or nine youths took food from a vending machine without paying.

Trespassing Arrest

On February 18 at 8:26 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a recently banned woman was arrested and released on a criminal citation.

Vandalism

On February 16 at 11:27 p.m. near 9120 Edmonston Court, an individual vandalized the door to someone's apartment; charges are being filed.

Vehicle Crimes

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On February 16 near 9001 Breezewood Terrace, an Astro van had ignition damage.

Theft from Auto

All four wheels and tires were stolen on February 16 near 5919 Cherrywood Terrace from a Toyota RAV4, and a vehicle near 7525 Greenway Center Drive; and on February 17 near 17 Ridge Road from a 2026 Honda Civic.

On February 18, airbags were stolen near 9148 Edmonston Road from a 2023 Honda Accord, and near 5911 Cherrywood Lane from a 2015 Acura TLX.

On February 21 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a rear tag was stolen (Md. 6GW1512).

Vandalism to Auto

On February 17 near 7913 Greenbury Drive, a man believed his neighbor dented his car after a disagreement about parking on the street in front of each other's homes.

Greenbelt John Doe Identified 45 Years After Body Found

Forty-five years after his remains were found beside the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, the body, known as Greenbelt John Doe, has been identified as 24-year-old Edward "Eddie" Octavis Devone. Devone, a native of Baltimore, was last seen by his family in the late 1970s.

On August 3, 1981, detectives with the U.S. Park Police (USPP) recovered the remains of a young African-American man wrapped in a blanket alongside a Baltimore-Washington Parkway guardrail. Investigators determined that he was 15 to 25 years old, about 5'2" and weighed 106 pounds. The young man had distinctive, severely deformed teeth of unusual lengths and gaps but that was not enough to identify him. In addition, his cause of death could not be determined.

Despite the continued efforts of the USPP, the man's identity remained unknown for decades. Then, in October 2024, after all traditional methods of human identification proved unsuccessful, the USPP requested assistance from the DNA Doe Project (dnadoeproject.org), whose expert investigative genetic genealogists work pro bono to identify John and Jane Does.

The unidentified man's DNA matches indicated he had roots in North Carolina and it wasn't long before the team on the case homed in on a family from the Fayetteville area. "We identified a couple from North Carolina as great-grandparents of the unidentified man, so we knew that one of their children had to be his grandparent," said team leader



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY/DNA DOE PROJECT

conversations led to a crucial discovery – a century prior, in the 1920s, a young girl was adopted out of the family. While she remained somewhat in contact with her biological relatives, she didn't stay in North Carolina – she moved to Baltimore.

With Baltimore only a short drive from where the young man's body was found, the DNA Doe Project team and USPP detectives zeroed in on this newfound branch of the family. Before long, they learned that the woman who moved to Baltimore had a grandson called Eddie Devone, born in 1956. Devone's siblings told investigators he hadn't been seen in nearly 50 years.

The family provided a photo of him as a young child, which is the only photo they still had of him. Further DNA testing ensued and, in December 2025, investigators confirmed that Greenbelt John Doe was in fact Eddie Devone.

"Eddie's story is heartbreaking, but it has been an honor to assist his family in finding answers," said team co-leader Rhonda Kevorkian. "We were lucky to work with a law enforcement agency that went above and beyond to resolve this case."

Details for this story provided by the DNA Doe Project.

Eddie Devone as a child

Matthew Waterfield. "But when we couldn't find him among their descendants, we realized that something didn't add up – it was like a branch of their family was missing."

USPP detectives travelled to Fayetteville, where they met with members of the family. Those



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Art Exhibition At Community Center

A new exhibition at the Community Center Art Gallery features detailed and immersive large charcoal drawings of the forest floor by Ann Margaret Morris. Her meticulous compositions convey the drama of crashing trees and boldly advancing vines and roots, as well as lacy leaf litter and the perpetual motion of the water cycle. The gallery is open daily: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. RSVP for a free Artist's Talk on Friday, March 20 at 6 p.m. The show is on view through March 22. City of Greenbelt Arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For more program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

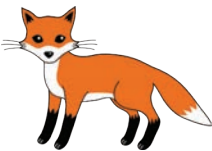
CARES Needs Fund Donations

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be a safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

Powerball Win

A \$50,000 ticket was sold February 16 at the Greenbelt American Legion Post, and has been claimed.





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A Review

The NDC's Unique Open Mic

by Ailsa Ostovitz

The New Deal Café's (NDC) weekly open mic on Tuesday nights is the perfect place to start performing. From poems to cover songs to original pieces, the open mic is a welcoming event for artists of all kinds to share their art. Or just to watch.

The night I visited, it was hosted by Joey Campfire and it was Aiden Hayward's first time at the NDC Open Mic. He was playing a cover of Fire and Rain by James Taylor and an original, If I Get to Choose, on acoustic guitar. After performing, Hayward said, "Everyone was just telling me how good it was" and that he felt "really welcomed" by the audience and musicians in the crowd.

Elise Broadwater said that after her second time at the open mic, she felt that, "When I started playing, people paid attention and wanted to listen. And I like that a lot." After playing two originals that night, she said that she's "been to other open mics, but they are all just acoustic [perform-



Ritchie Royale (left) performs at the New Deal Café with musicians from the audience.

ers] ... but the people here, it's like such a diverse crowd."

The Café has had several kinds of performances over the years, from stand-up comedy, drag shows and puppet shows to a showcase from an insect expert, so the venue is no stranger to diverse genres.

Jay Bellamy dimmed the mood of the Café using only candlelight for his live poetry. He performed his favorite poem, The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe.

At Ritchie Royale's first time at the New Deal, he gathered other musicians in the audience, making a house band of sorts.

Royale said that his first time

at the Café had been a "dynamic situation," which he liked. He said the environment had "good vibes"; with the NDC's unofficial house band, he performed two original songs, saying, "Everyone kinda brings their own thing."

The NDC is the best place for new performers because of how open the crowd is to something they've never seen before. Every open mic has acoustic sets, but the Café also has an environment that wants to hear innovative things and be supportive to young performers in the area. Every Tuesday night, people come together to support each other's artistry and build community, and that's something we need more of in the world.

Ailsa Ostovitz is a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and is the arts and entertainment editor for the Raider Review, where this article first appeared.



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City Notes

Economic Development, Constituent Services, city manager and Greenbelt Business Alliance met to plan a Small Business Expo. The city manager met with the acting director of Goddard Space Flight Center and Public Safety/Community met with the Greenbelt Police union.

Code Enforcement inspected two apartment buildings, six commercial suites and nine rentals and issued two building permits. Inspectors attended the Maryland Code Enforcement and Zoning Officers meeting and training.

Planning, Arts and Public Works met with consultants to learn more about pavement art.

Animal Shelter residents are five cats, five kittens and two dogs after two adoptions. Fourteen dog park permits are active and 109 spay/neuter vouchers have been issued, with 64 redeemed.

At the Community Center, the gym roof leak has been repaired and city employees met for a leadership training event.

Therapeutic Recreation took seniors to a dinner theater and hosted a Food for Life presentation. CARES and Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) staff presented their programs to the Rotary Club.

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Joey Campfire is a regular performer and host of open mics at the New Deal. - Photos by Ailsa Ostovitz

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FAIR HOUSING continued from page 10

George’s County discussion held by the Springhill Lake Democratic Club. According to Noe in 1965, such events were attended mostly by those already committed to fair housing.

Human Relations Board

GCFH began engaging city council at the November 18, 1963, council meeting to request a Human Relations Advisory Board. Such bodies were being created around the country to address housing discrimination incidents, though they were limited to mediation if the jurisdiction had no fair housing laws.

In December 1964, council heard from then-GCFH Chair Al Herling that over a year had passed since the idea was presented, and that a local board could have avoided two alleged discriminatory incidents in Greenbelt having been taken to the Prince George’s Human Relations Committee. The same month the News Review reported that two Black families had purchased Boxwood homes but not yet moved in, and four Black families had been rejected at Lakeside North Apartments.

Council established the board in January 1965, and in April 1965, Mayor Edgar Smith appointed seven members, including GCFH founder Rev. Edward Birner and realtor Abraham Chasanow, in what Smith called a cross-section of Greenbelt interests. Noe wrote that the process of creating the board raised city government and resident awareness of potential problems otherwise not officially acknowledged. The board still exists today as the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB).

Resistance by Realtors

Charles Bresler developed several Greenbelt neighborhoods, including Lakeside Drive’s southern end, Charlestowne Village, Charlestowne North Apartments and Boxwood. Realtor and attorney Chasanow represented Bresler legally, and operated Greenbelt Realty in the building that is now DMV Pizza. Chasanow also owned and/or operated several Greenbelt apartment buildings. One of the realty’s 1965 News Review ads said “Call us to inspect some of the 500 homes available.”

Noe wrote in 1965 that Greenbelt Realty (which sold the new Lakeside homes) claimed no Negroes had looked at them. She added that an “individual closely associated with this company testified against the proposed Maryland fair housing law suggests that Negro buyers might not be welcomed.” She wrote that GHI claimed no Negro had applied for membership, that most Greenbelt apartments had unofficial segregation policies and Springhill Lake Apartments (now Franklin Park) had an official segregation policy.

Jean Turkiewicz told a Greenbelt Museum interviewer in 2019 of picketing Chasanow’s apartments. In 2025 Marcie



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW ARCHIVES

Jan Turkiewicz helped found Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing in 1963, and advocated to Greenbelt City Council for fair housing legislation in the city.

Walder told the News Review, “We picketed Greenbelt Realty. A lot.” Son David Walder added, “I must have been out of school sick, but not that sick, because my mom took me to picket at the realty company. It was the first demonstration I’d ever been



PHOTO COURTESY WALDER FAMILY

Leo and Marcie Walder in 1965

to. It was very interesting that these committed young adults were doing their thing there. And it really was an eye opener for a little kid. I was probably 7.”

Reluctance by Blacks

Marcie remembered trying to sell their 17 Court Ridge home “to a non-white family and we weren’t successful. We finally got the message saying, ‘Forget it. We’re not going to be the first to

move into this neighborhood.’” Marie Unger said her mother Pat told her one reason it was difficult to convince Blacks to move into GHI was because, “if you’re going to be the first person in your family to own a home, that’s not what you want it to look like, because it looked like government housing; they wanted single family homes.”

Resistance Becomes Personal

Jean Turkiewicz told the News Review, “We felt like outliers in Lakewood, and felt the hostility very much.” Daughter Rachel Turkiewicz Alexander remembered playing with Black friends in her yard and walking with them near her home as a child, while a neighbor pointedly watched.

Mary Auerbach told fellow GCFH members in November 1963 that on Halloween her car’s gas tank was drained and Bob’s taxicab windshield was smashed. Trick-or-treaters with their mothers skipped her door, though three months earlier had invited her daughter Hopi to their birthdays. She tied these events to GCFH and hosting friends in her yard “no matter what color their skins,” saying communication with

her neighbors had ceased.

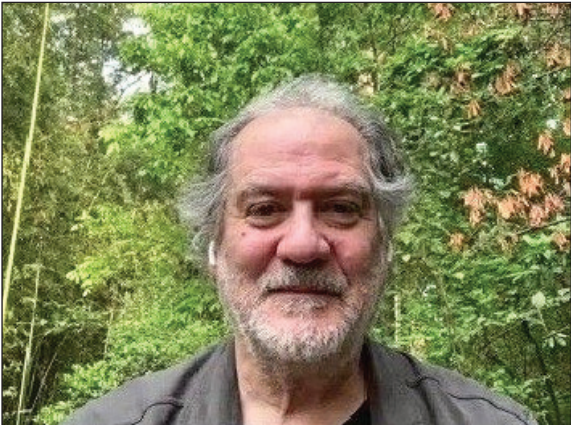
Hopi Auerbach remembered their window being shot. “My mother was at the window doing dishes and heard a noise. She found a tiny hole in the window and assumed it was because of [GCFH].” Hopi told the News Review that as a third grader “I was chased home from school and called a N— lover. I was pretty scared when I got home.”

A July 1966 News Review reported that University of Maryland employee [and GCFH member] George Harris was struck on the head and knocked unconscious while walking to work carrying signs against apartment segregation.

Part two of this story will appear in a future issue.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS VIA ZOOM



David Walder

Sources for This Article, Parts One and Two

Greenbelt Museum, Interview with Marjorie Donn, Barbara Havekost, Cynthia Newcomer, Lowell and Marjory Owens and Jean Turkiewicz, 2019. Greenbelt News Review (greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives). Greenbelt News Review interview of Marjorie Donn, Jean Turkiewicz and Marcie Walder, and adult children Rachel Turkiewicz Alexander, Hopi Auerbach, Marie Unger and David and Judy Walder, 2025. Greenbelt Reparations Commission, Restorative Justice for Greenbelt: A Report of Historical Harms and Contemporary Impacts, 2025, tinyurl.com/zfb88a96. Kaye Sizer Noe, The Fair Housing Movement: An Overview and a Case Study, University of Maryland College Park Master’s Thesis, 1965, tinyurl.com/4fxpkpmm. Pastor Angie Williams, interview by Emmett Jordan, 2021, tinyurl.com/48rbfnfyd.

Winter Photographs



A seagull plays with a piece of ice at Greenbelt Lake.



A great blue heron takes flight from the grass verge of Greenbelt Lake.



Sunlight through snowy stalks of wild grasses



More than 100 Canada geese on a half-frozen Greenbelt Lake



Dozens of geese take off from Greenbelt Lake in several different groups.

- Photos by Nick Hall NH

